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## JAPAN IS OUR SINCERE FRIEND

Commercial Delegates Express  
Their Belief in Oft-Repeated Claim.

The chambers of commerce delegates from the Pacific Coast states to Japan, which party disbanded as an organization at the beginning of the month, some of the delegates returning to the mainland and others continuing their trip through the Orient, have issued the following preliminary report:

"The entertainment accorded the Pacific Coast business men, representing chambers of commerce of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Oakland, Spokane, Tacoma, San Diego, Eureka and Honolulu, throughout Japan partook of an ovation.

"There is no doubt but that the government of Japan and the chambers of commerce of Tokio, Kyoto, Osaka, Yokohama and Kobe intended that no attention or expense should be spared that the American commissioners might be received, entertained and shown the country and its conditions in a manner never before undertaken. "Their earnestness and enthusiasm became contagious and the Japanese people, without regard to rank, vied with each other that the commissioners might know and feel that Japan is the sincere friend of the United States. Everywhere we journeyed in the villages and towns, as well as in the cities, delegations of prominent officials and business men met and delivered addresses to us, a number of them being in English.

"School children were at the depots and lined the passageways and, in many places, sang to us our national airs and waived flags and banners, every other one of which was emblematic of the United States.

"It would be absurd and wrong, after the manifestations of affection which were accorded us by the Japanese people, to question the sincerity of their friendship.

"Every member of the commission realized that it was not the commissioners whom the Japanese sought to compliment, but that through them they were seeking to reach the hearts of the people of the United States.

"At first, we were under the impression that the elaborate preparations were chiefly intended for the reception of the American fleet. But when we visited the villages, towns and cities where the men of the fleet did not go, we found preparations on an elaborate scale made in our honor and the people lacked nothing in their enthusiasm.

"No member of the commission can ever forget the hundreds of thousands of faces, radiant with smiles, which everywhere greeted us.

"Before visiting the Empire of Japan, none of us had the slightest conception of the sentiments which the people of that country bear to the people of the United States. Commodore Perry's memory is as much revered as that of almost any patriot who has ever died for Japan. The people of that Empire feel that the United States has dealt fairly with them and has given them advice which was not in any way tinged by selfish interest.

"They declare that the moral support of the American people and our sympathy during the war with Russia, assured them that they would be successful. They constantly spoke of the friendship manifested by our country when President Roosevelt suggested that hostilities between Japan and Russia should cease and an honorable peace be concluded.

"We were all impressed with the beautiful scenery, the fine climate and the fertile soil of Japan.

"The people of Japan are clean in their persons and in their homes, and are the most orderly we have ever met. According to the report of the different members of the commission, only two drunken men were observed and not an incivility was offered to any of us. This is a remarkable fact as, in many of the cities, the crowds which cheered us were so dense that the passage ways for our jinrikishas were almost blocked.

"We realize that owing to the short period we were in Japan and so much of our time being taken up by the entertainments given us, our opportunity for close study was very limited and some of our observations may be erroneous.

"In Japan we found many things that were crude and many of these were pointed out to us by the Japanese themselves. Through us they sought a remedy and we were invited by them to criticize whatever, in our judgment, appeared wrong, and for us to suggest reforms.

"Bearing in mind that only fifty-five years ago Japan was a hermit nation and that today she is a world power, realizing to what extent they have developed their natural resources and, through their Emperor, changed their form of government, established educational institutions, and performed a work more gigantic than has before

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been undertaken by any other people, we deem any such criticism at this time improper.

"There is no mistaking the onward and upward trend of commerce, manufacturing, and education in Japan. She has within her the elements of a very high civilization and her people are not blind to these factors.

"The commerce of Japan has had a rapidity of growth unequalled by any other modern nation. The Japanese build, man and navigate their own ships and they have built ships which seem equal to the best that ply the Pacific Ocean.

"Many of their manufacturing plants are on a large scale and are in conformity with the latest models of either Germany, England or the United States. In one of the cotton spinning factories which we visited, the sanitary arrangements were nearly perfect. There was a school for the education of some of the employees and the children of the employees, a theater, tea house, hospital, boarding house, sleeping apartments and such employees as were furnished food were given it at less than one-half of its actual cost. We were advised that there were many other manufacturing institutions adopting like measures for the comfort and benefit of their employees.

"While we found the wages paid in the factories small as compared with wages in America, they were sufficient to enable the employees to accumulate savings, as the cost of living in Japan is extremely low.

"It is a mistaken idea to believe that the Japanese are an underfed people. Their diet, while simple, is wholesome and well prepared. The Japanese people as a rule do not wear the heavy clothes of the Caucasians. They are, however, gradually adopting the dress of the Western nations.

"In almost every instance where the school children met us the boys were clothed in uniforms of blue with caps to match, and they all wore shoes and impressed us by their very orderly appearance.

"Years ago Japan borrowed from the United States our school system, and education is compulsory. The school-house there has become a sight as common as in America. The eagerness of the ordinary Japanese children to gain an education is remarkable, and they seem to learn readily. English is quite generally taught. Thus far those who are educated in modern ways seem to cooperate in the advancement of everything that benefits their country to a degree surprising to foreigners.

"Owing to the country being mountainous and having a heavy rainfall, there is an almost incalculable amount of water power that can be developed. Already there are numerous electrical plants receiving their power from this source.

"The mines of coal and copper and oil fields are being developed. In fact, the people seem alive to all the things which make toward the higher civilization of man, and they have the daring and the ability to put their thoughts into action.

"Their banking system is thoroughly organized and is a great aid in the support and development of the industries of the country. In fact, Japan's awakening is such and her geographical location is so favorable to trade and commerce that it is probable that there is as little danger of migration from that country to other parts of the world as there is from France or England.

"That the Japanese are going to become a great trading nation is apparent. That the material development of the Empire is going to make a great demand for all the labor of their people is quite evident.

"We were impressed with the idea that Japan has a great future. The people of the United States ought to be proud of the friends which they have in the Far East. The cooperation of Japan and America is essential to the uplifting of Asia.

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

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